



# Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

## Middletown, OH

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The City of Middletown was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Middletown (population 51,605) is located in southwest Ohio between the Cities of Dayton and Cincinnati. Served by five major rail lines and a canal to move raw materials, Middletown was a natural location for industry. For more than a century, the city was dominated by the steel and paper industries. Technological advances that enabled the use of fewer employees and foreign imports left Middletown with many abandoned and underutilized facilities, disrupting the community. Industries that employed 50 percent of the local workforce 50 years ago employ less than 30 percent today. A recent market study of the city indicates that as many as 3,000 manufacturing jobs could be lost in the next few years. The declining economy has



### Assessment Grants

New  
2005

**\$200,000 for hazardous substances**  
**\$200,000 for petroleum**

EPA has selected the City of Middletown for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to perform ten to 15 Phase I and a select number of Phase II environmental site assessments, design remediation plans, and conduct community outreach activities at sites throughout the city. Petroleum funds will be used to conduct the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination. Middletown has identified 247 acres of brownfields.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team

312-886-7576

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: City of Middletown, OH  
513-425-1860

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

left Middletown with growing unemployment and poverty. Middletown has identified 247 acres of brownfields. The brownfields are located primarily in the low-income neighborhoods around the city. They not only pose a potential health threat to the surrounding communities, but also threaten the quality of the city's water supply. Middletown is situated over the largest natural aquifer in the United States. Assessment of the abandoned and underutilized facilities represents the first step toward future development opportunities for this fully built-out area.